

Oil Palm Cultivation and Peaceful Social Development by Former Darul Islam Aceh Members: A Critique of the Impact of HGU Land Management by Palm Oil Companies

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Abstract. After LAMTEH Peace Agreement, some elite members of the DI/TII Aceh were engage in the plantation business in order to improve their own economic situation and that of the people that supported their movement. One of the commodities they cultivated was palm oil, despite the fact that palm oil plantations are frequently the subject of dispute due to their environmental and local community consequences. In this article, we examine two noteworthy cases: Abdul Ghani Mutiara and Muhammad Sati's efforts in Aceh Tamiang to achieve sustainable living through palm oil plantations, as well as the implications of the transition in the management of their Plantation Concession Rights (HGU). To address these issues, a qualitative method was adopted in this study. Data was collected through observation, in-depth interviews (individual and group), and utilizing secondary sources. The data was then interactively analysed via data gathering, data reduction, data display, and drawing of conclusion. According to the research findings, both former DI/TII elites have given a portion of their HGU land to the community for economic resources as well as a venue for education and other social activities. The implication is that palm oil planting not only benefits the economy of former DI/TII elites and the communities involved, but it also fosters peaceful relationships while sustaining community respect for these former DI/TII elites.

Keywords: Oil Palm, Peace, Social Development, and Darul Islam

1 Introduction

Palm oil is proven to contribute to improving the community's economy and The state, although on the other hand gives rise to social conflicts, deforestation, loss biodiversity, and natural disasters [1] [2]. As a solution to negative impacts, Palm oil management is required to apply the concept of sustainable development and follow ISO (International Organization for Standardization) standards [3] [4], and standards RSPO (Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil)

[5] Relating to the emergence of social conflicts It has been proven by many researchers. However, palm oil is also relied upon in peacebuilding in some former conflict areas (15,16), so in the case of the last Aceh conflict (1976-2005), oil palm development was used as Idol Plant for the Empowerment of Former Independence Workers and Victims of Conflict. Some programs are seen as successful and sustainable, but still appear to be has not been able to transform the ideology of independence. According to [6]problems GAM's ideology is still like an ice gunus that has a negative impact on sustainability of peace.

The above reality is different from the oil palm business in Aceh Tamiang and Langkat which acted by a former member of the Darul Islam Movement / Indonesian Islamic Army (DI / TII) Aceh who inhabit Aceh Tamiang and several villages in Pematang Jaya sub-district, Langkat North Sumatra. They succeeded in establishing several plantation companies, namely PT. Surya Mata Ie, PT. Sulaiman Saleh, PT. Parasawita, and PT. Mazdah under the auspices PT. Mopoli Raya for processing Crued Plam Oil (CPO) and Palm Oil kernel (IKS). Now the company manages 6,678.76 Ha of oil palm plantations in the Aceh Tamiang region and 3,053.57 Ha in North Sumatra. According to local people, the company initiated by three former members of DI/TII, namely H. A Basyah Ibrahim, H. Muhammad Sati and Mustafa Sulaiman.

Palm oil businesses are not only able to transform them from actors resistance to successful business actors, but it has also transformed ideology their opposition to the ideology of peace. This negates the view that considers former DI/TII member involved in the Free Aceh Movement (GAM) [7]. including attitude their politics are not associated with the GAM group, even with the Aceh Party Post-peace 2005. For example, the former Regent of Aceh Tamiang, Hamdan Sati who is a the son of the company's founder and former DI/TII, Muhammad Sati, prefers the Golkar Party for his candidacy as Regent.

2 Methodology

This This research was conducted in two locations, namely Aceh Tamiang Regency, Aceh Province and Langkat Regency, North Sumatra Province. Although it is located in two provinces that Different, but geographically, both are directly adjacent regions. Location determination is based on several reasons, namely: 1) The two districts are the area of spread of oil palm plantation arena owned by PT. Great Mopoli and child Its subsidiaries. The area of plantation land in Aceh Province reaches 6,678.76 Ha and in the Province North Sumatra covering an area of 3,053.57 Ha; 2) The existence of oil palm plantations in the region it became a medium for the reintegration of former DI/TII soldiers. According to Torjesen, among the forms The success of reintegration is that former guerrillas are able to change identity and behavior they, as well as can take a role in social, political and economic structures [8] The two regions represent different cultural settings, Tamiang Regency, the majority The people are ethnic Malay, while Langkat Regency is predominantly ethnic Javanese. Cultural differences certainly have implications for the dynamics of different company trips, Although in its establishment it has the same historical roots.

Whereas, the data analysis process in this study was carried out since the data collection process Done by following an inductive approach [9]. The collected data is analyzed in a timely manner. Interactive follows the steps of analysis put forward by [10] as follows:

1. Find patterns from the collected data.

2. Compose an appropriate theme or capture data characteristics to perform Data categorization.
3. Look for relationships between concepts so as to find a particular understanding of the results interaction between data.
4. Interpret the data and give meaning as the conclusion of the whole process analysis

3 Results and Discussion

3.1 Palm Oil Maintenance by Former DI/TII

Studies on palm oil plantation development practices have been written by several researchers before, but so far the development of palm oil plantations affiliated with figures involved in social movements is very rare as well as studies on plantations as peaceful concession land. This study found two DI/TII figures who owned oil palm plantation businesses on a macro scale, namely Muhammad Sati and Abdul Ghani Mutiara (Ayah Ghani). During the rebellion Ahmad Sati was the treasurer of DI/TII for the Aceh region, while Abdul Ghani Mutiara was listed as Minister of Information [11], In addition, he was also one of the DI / TII Revolutionary Councils that initiated the realization of a peace agreement with the Republic of Indonesia represented by the Hardi Mission along with several other figures who were members of the Revolutionary Council group. From several sources, the Revlousi board consists of; Ghani's fathers, Husin Mujahid and Hasan Saleh, while Hasan Tiro was not involved in the team as he was part of any individual or group that refused to agree to a peace deal.

Ayah Ghani was noted as a party who was instrumental during the process of reaching a peace agreement. Ghani's father had negotiation skills and had a patient personality and no military experience. On this basis he later became chairman in the process of peace negotiations. The next three names (Husin Mujahid, Hasan Saleh and Abdul Ghani Mutiara) were military elements before the uprising. These three individuals then after peace continued the struggle through the path of effort. Husin Mujahid manages oil drilling for the Brandan area (currently PT. Pertamina Rantau), Hasan Saleh manages a tea plantation in Tasikmalaya under the company name PT. Lamteh, while Abdul Ghani Mutiara managed a rubber plantation which was later converted into an oil palm plantation by establishing a company called PT. Parasawita.

The study found a wide range of diverse information on how they (former DI/TII) obtained plantation management rights. It's just that all this information leads to the DI/TII elite's clash with government officials of the Republic of Indonesia. This closeness makes it easier for them to interact with the central government (Jakarta) and reach mutual agreements. Their meetings with high-ranking central government officials were inseparable from their role before the uprising or during the uprising as merchants/businessmen engaged in conversations with the government elite. Two former DI/TII fighters, Abdul Ghani Mutiara and Tuan Sati, who have plantation management rights in Aceh Tamiang and Langkat districts, used plantations as a step to free Acehnese children from poverty and school dropouts.

The existence of oil palm plantations managed by former DI/TII is believed to be a constructive approach to transform the resistance to central government domination of Aceh by realizing the welfare of its people. Ledearch considers conflict transformation as an opportunity given to create constructive social change and be able to reduce violence, increase justice and direct interaction and social structure, as well as respond to human problems in human relations

[12]The transformation from a resistance movement to a peace movement can be illustrated as follows;

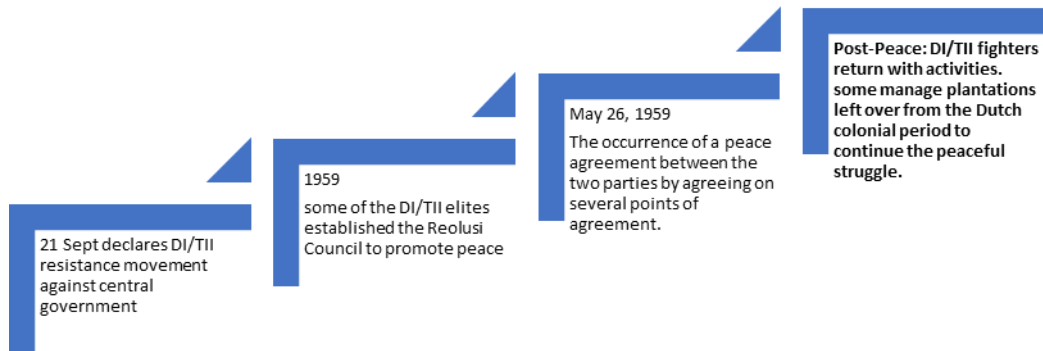


Fig. 1. The transformation process of the former DI/TII Aceh

Through the graphic above, the process of transforming the resistance movement towards a sustainable economy through oil palm plantations began with the formation of a Revolutionary Council from among DI/TII Aceh (the head of DI/TII Aceh, Tengku Daud Bereuh, was not involved in this group). This group itself was led by Ghani's father who was a prisoner in North Sumatra. The Revolutionary Council was established with the aim of securing a peace agreement between the central government and DI/TII Aceh. On 26 May 1959 the two sides (the Revolutionary Council and the Central Government Mission) reached a peace agreement by agreeing on several points of agreement in the Lamteh pledge. After the agreement, it was agreed by Ali Hasyimi who was also one of the members of the Revolutionary Council as the Governor of Aceh. After the peace the Revolutionary Council resumed its activities, except for David Beureuh and his regiment which remained until 1962. After the peace Hasan Saleh, Abdul Ghani Mutiara and Muhammad Sati returned with activities as businessmen who had been involved before choosing to carry out rebellion. Hasan Saleh manages a tea plantation in Tasikmalaya West Java, Abdul Ghani Mutiara founded the company PT. Parasawita manages rubber plantations which are then converted into oil palm plantations, Muhammad Sati cultivates rubber plantations under the company name PT. Surya Mata Ie and later converted into an oil palm plantation. His business then developed into several other companies such as PT. Perapan and PT. Mopoli Raya is engaged in the palm oil business.

3.2 From Rubber to Palm Oil: Strategic Efforts to Maintain Sustainable Peace

There are three important reasons why there has been a change to car of peace from rubber plantations after the relic of VOC to oil palm. Providing employment opportunities for former

DI/TII combatants who did not re-elect as soldiers will be involved as workers on the plantation. Generally, former fighters will be placed as "centeng" or garden foremen. Armed with military education experience, Centeng has a duty as a plantation security party from civilian elements. One centeng will usually monitor 60 hectares of land with high levels of vulnerability, and 100 ha for low and medium levels of vulnerability. Meanwhile, the foreman functions to supervise plantation operator workers such as fertilizers, cleaning workers and tree care.

Second, Oil palm plantations are considered as businesses that can provide a source of income for both former DI/TII families and the wider community in large numbers and can provide a decent life. This study shows that the pattern of recruitment of permanent and irregular workers always prioritizes the local community. In the early days of plantation development (1960s), the company continued to employ old workers as employees even though it was not involved in the rebellion movement and allowed old company employees to occupy company plantations. For employees who have met the criteria for housing, the company will place them in a housing complex based on afdeeling (adapted from Dutch; administrative area)⁶. For employees who have met the criteria for housing, the company will place them in a housing complex based on afdeeling (adapted from Dutch; administrative area). One afdeeling is the same as 500-1,00 hectares of gardens with a diverse number of employee houses and other public facilities such as prayer rooms, roads, and other public facilities.

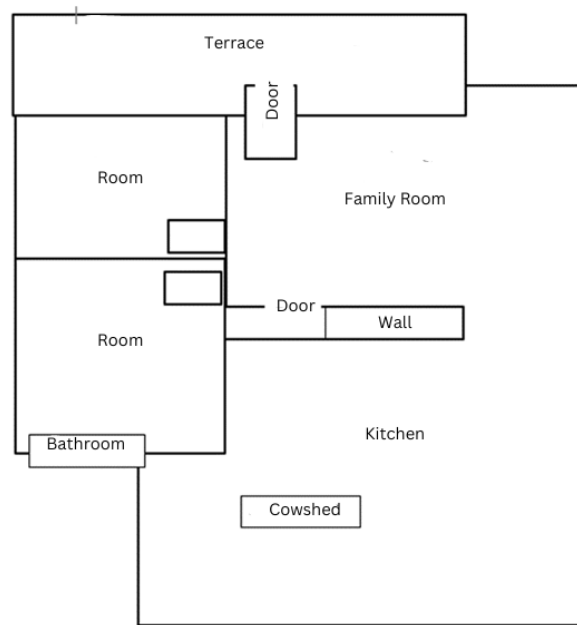


Fig. 2 Home Interior of PT. Mopoli Raya in afdeeling PT. Sumber Asih at Perkebunan Gedong Biara sub-district Seruway

Third, For Abdul Ghani Mutiara and Muhammad Sati, oil palm plantations can be used as an instrument to provide sustainable life for homeless communities. Abdul Ghani Mutiara through

his palm oil company gave the right to manage rice fields to the Sungai Iyu Perkebunan community covering an area of six hectares located in the HGU area of his plantation. He also granted 1.1 hectares of land for the construction of houses, schools and football pitches. In addition, he also did not question residents to occupy company-owned housing. When the transfer of HGU management from PT. parasawita to PT. Rapala in 2014 the status of the land granted by Ghani Mutiara was taken by the company. Similar to Ghani Mutiara, Muhammad Sati also made oil palm plantations a step to realize peace on a micro scale by granting his plantation HGU land covering an area of 40 hectares to be used as a settlement under the name of Kampung Tempel Hamlet which is in the administrative area of Perapen village, Pematang Jaya sub-district, North Sumatra.

3.3 Critique

After the transfer of plantation management previously managed by state-owned plantation companies to former members of DI/TII. Plantations are no longer owned by the public as well as DI/TII struggles extensively, but are owned by private individuals in the form of legal entities, while plantation areas intended for crops and administrative offices are owned by the state with the status of Right to Use. Despite this, some data shows that the company does not feel that it fully owns the land that has been given through the HGU scheme. Ghani Mutiara through his company Parasawita granted the release of 34 hectares of his plantation area for public use. Some are used to build school houses, roads, rice fields and other public facilities. Some of the released land is now legally owned by the community, and confirmed again in a recount conducted by local authorities in 2014. Ghani Mutiara is aware of the existence of managed plantations as an effort for the common welfare and wider society.

The vision of an inclusive economy is more easily achieved through the development of productive business units that bring substantial profits. Conducting open rebellion is realized that it will not provide any benefit except suffering as experienced before. This reason is also behind Ghani Mutiara converting plant species into oil palm, because it is considered to have more selling value than rubber. The greater benefits also make it easier for them (ex-DI/TII) to engage in dialogue with other ex-DI/TII at the grassroots. It is uncertain whether other former DI/TII knew that the plantation under management was a peaceful concession plantation. That is, the practice of privatizing plantations such as those carried out by Ghani Mutiara and Muhammad Sati is not in line with the principle of common ownership. Some former DI/TII do not know with certainty the status of the plantation itself, for them even if there are irregularities in management. They expect justice for former fighters who have a different fate to them (elites). On the other hand, the children of these plantation owners admit that the plantation was acquired by buying like most other companies. so they have no obligation to give special treatment to other DI/TII members. The involvement of former fighters in the company is then considered like ordinary workers by getting equal rights, not with a profit-sharing scheme like the cooperative system or other common ownership mechanisms.

After the death of Ghani Mutiara as the first generation, the management rights of the Iyu River plantation were then continued by his children, especially his eldest son. Unfortunately, poor management mechanisms make this company unable to last long. In 2014 a plantation company owned by Ghani Mutiara managed by his eldest son transferred (sold) HGU PT. Parasawita to PT. Raya Padang Langkat (Rapala).

The transition of former DI/TII kombatan land managers triggered various problems, the relationship between the community and the plantation changed by itself, as well as the work mechanism that was built resulting in rejection. Among the significant impacts was the eviction of residents of Sungai Iyu Perkebunan community who lived in company-owned housing. Before the transfer of ownership, residents occupying company housing were not questioned. The company (Parasawita) allowed to occupy it within a time limit that was never discussed. When this transition took place, residents were then forcibly evicted by the company and relocated to areas far from their original settlements. Residents who refused to move were then reported by the company to the police. For the report, dozens of residents are suspects on charges of occupation and destruction of company assets.

Although the escalation of the conflict cannot be suppressed; The company remains adamant in rejecting the occupation of their land as a residential area, while the community still refuses to leave the occupied land. Negotiations between the two sides continued for quite a long time. Based on records since 2014 until now negotiations are still being carried out by both parties. The local government facilitates both parties to reach mutually beneficial mutual agreements. However, there is no mutually beneficial agreement between the two. Residents were evicted from their previous homes and placed in temporary settlements built independently through a compensation fund of 20 million for one household. They are also still waiting for the certainty of the relocation promised earlier. Meanwhile, the company still refuses to release some of its land for residential as expected by residents.

4 Conclusion

The change in the pattern of struggle from a form of resistance / physical movement (war) to a movement based on peace cannot be separated from the conditions that occurred during the rebellion. In some of the records and information found that political conditions at that time forced the DI/TII fighters to be in a very difficult position to continue the resistance openly as had been done before. The military councils such as Husayn Mujahid and Hasan Saleh realized that the availability of logistics and the sufficiency of troops made it impossible to continue the struggle and seek a peace agreement. empowerment of former Darul Islam Movement (DI) grilyawans who inhabit Aceh Tamiang and Langkat North Sumatra, the development of oil palm business Engaging them has put them economically successful by establishing several palm oil companies, both for planting and processing oil palm into crude palm oil (CPO). Beyond that, palm oil business has also had implications positive for the ideological transformation of resistance movements, so they are not involved in the political movement of the Free Aceh Movement, even after peace, they are not affiliated with the Aceh Party formed by former GAM members.

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